

# The Castagna Connection

Accelerating the Spread of the Gospel Through the Power of Media

May 4, 2022

## Gladys Aylward



**Leslie portrays Gladys at a local community center while Matt records her 35 minute monologue.**

Gladys Aylward was a British-born Christian missionary to China whose story is told in the book, *The Small Woman*, and made into the 1958 film, *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness*, starring Ingrid Bergman.

In 1930, Aylward spent her life savings on a train ticket to Yangcheng, China. The perilous trip took her across Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railway. She was detained by the Russians, but managed to escape with local help and a lift on a Japanese fishing vessel. She then travelled across Japan with the help of the British Consul and took another ship to China. A simple three week trip turned into three months.

I (Leslie) have presented this monologue many times over the years, to mostly Christian audiences of all ages. I love presenting her remarkable story! This time the audience was mostly seniors who weren't believers. Praise God, I was able to include a clear presentation of the Gospel.



**I dress up as Gladys and speak with a British accent to add as much realism to the presentation as possible.**

I would love to come and share the story of Gladys at your church or any size gathering; just contact me.

Besides portraying Gladys, I also wear other missionary hats. I love planning all the short-term mission trips for our local church and then training the leaders and participants so they can be as equipped as possible for ministry on the field. I also oversee the care of our 50+ missionary partners locally and globally. It's a huge job, but I have a wonderful team of servant leaders to help in this task.

I am excited to lead a team of five women to teach at a women's conference in Kazakhstan. They are expecting over 100 women to attend in mid-August.

In September, I am slated to lead a co-ed team to serve in Israel. The situation over there is in constant fluctuation, so I am holding plans loosely as we navigate the constant changes. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.



**Recording Gladys Alyward (Leslie) with some recently donated camera equipment.**

I (Matt) continue to work on self-publishing a book of my memoirs. It's been a lot of work but I am excited to see how God will use it. I am working with an editor, who has been wonderful at creating order out of my chaos.©

In June, I will be leading a 12 man construction team to Indian Bible College where we will work on a couple of roofing projects. Pray for safety as the work will involve being up on ladders. Like me, most of the guys going, are no longer "spring chickens." I am affectionately known as Hop-Sing, the team cook.

In August, Leslie and I are going to Orlando to help out with a missionary recruitment conference that will be held at our Pioneers headquarters. Please pray for God to call new workers into His harvest fields. While there, I'll get to see my 95 year old father, plus my brother and family. We'll also visit our oldest supporting church; hopefully with my new book in-hand.

# Our Golden Girls



The Lammott family has been busy with home schooling, sports, church and excitedly anticipating the completion of a new worship center on their existing church property.

Karis is in 8th grade and turns 14 this month. She is looking forward to getting her learners driving permit; her grandparents are nervous! Three and a half hours a day, she attends an online school for the majority of her classroom instruction. She is also running track.

Owen, age 11, is in 5th grade, and excelling in math. Mande teaches both him and Piper. Owen is into dirt bikes, football and basketball.

Piper is an active 8 year old who loves dolls, dress-up and hanging out with her friends from church.

All the kids attend a co-op school held at their church on Fridays. Among other subjects, they study Latin (which Piper is really good at), and computer coding.



**Kyle was in the church parking lot when a tornado recently went through their area. The church buildings were undamaged, but one family in their congregation lost their home.**



We are so **very** thankful for your partnership over the years. God has been so good to us; our hearts are overflowing!

The phrase "great is thy faithfulness" comes from the Old Testament Book of Lamentations 3:23, and it has been so true in our lives. The words of the old hymn ring so true!

Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.



## PRAYER ALERT

**"Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge for Satan."** -John Bunyan

- † Pray for the plans for upcoming video projects to come together.
- † Pray for the success of the church-plant David & Amber are involved in.
- † Pray for the short-term missions trips Leslie is planning to come together in a timely manner, and for her trip to Kazakhstan to speak at a women's conference in August.
- † Pray for parental wisdom for both the Lammott and Margosian families.
- † Kyle & Mande's church is in the midst of a building campaign; pray for God's peace and His provision.

## BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

- † We continue to enjoy relatively good health!
- † God has so faithfully and wonderfully blessed us through you , during our 45 years of ministry!

Serving with you, *Matt & Leslie*

**Home:** Matt & Leslie Castagna 13266 Saturn Dr. Littleton, CO 80124 Cell: 720.244.4975 MattCastagna@gmail.com  
**USA Donations:** PIONEERS 10123 William Carey Dr. Orlando, FL 32832 Ph: 407.382.6000  
**Canada Donations:** PIONEERS 51 Byron Ave. Dorchester, ON N0L 1G2 Ph: 519.268.8778

